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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Will Meet May 17 at Jacksonville, Fla.—Some Characteristics of Baptists.

[By Associated Press.]

Jacksonville, Fla., May 15.—Greater in number than the British parliament or the congress of the United States, the Southern Baptist Convention will meet here on May 17, with delegates present from every state in the South.

The convention is made up of messengers, or delegates, from churches, associations, state conventions, missionary societies and Sunday schools. All Baptist churches are independent. Therefore the convention has no authority to bind the churches in its territory. Its action is advisory, not compulsory. Ministers and laymen are admitted into the convention on the same basis without any official distinction between the clergy and laity.

According to the best available figures, there are about 6,280,649 Baptists. Of this number, 4,110,873 are in the South; 2,218,911 of the Southern Baptists are white, 1,891,962 colored. In the Northern states there are 1,190,293 Baptists. There are 22,438 churches connected with the Southern Baptist Convention. They make up the largest religious denomination in the South. The Baptists are said to have 39.5 per cent of the church membership of the South, the Methodists 26.5 per cent, Catholics 15.9 per cent, Disciples 5.2 per cent, Presbyterians 4.9 per cent, Episcopalians 1.7 per cent, and all others 5.9 per cent.

Roger Williams was not the first Baptist, as some erroneously suppose. The history of the church runs back for hundreds of years before his day. John Runyun, who lived nearly an hundred years before Williams was born, was a Baptist. Williams was, however, the first to become a Baptist on American soil, and he organized the first American Baptist church in Providence, R. I. The first Baptist church in the South was constituted in South Carolina in 1682. The first established in North Carolina was in 1653, in Virginia 1714, in Tennessee 1770, in Georgia 1771, in Mississippi 1780, in Kentucky 1781, in Alabama 1803, in Florida 1838. In 1762, when the great Baptist persecution began in Virginia, there were only 2000 Baptists in the whole country. In twenty-four years they had increased to 35,000. In 1790 there were 50,000, in 1812 175,000, in 1825 238,000, in 1840 570,000, and in 1853 1,258,765. Today there are in the South alone 5,301,166.

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SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Will Meet in Louisville Thursday. Will Be Confronted with Important Questions.

[By Associated Press.]

Louisville, Ky., May 15.—With an extensive program arranged for the celebration of the semi-centennial of the church, and confronted with some of the most important questions which have ever demanded its attention, the fifty-first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (Southern) will convene here next Thursday. Delegates, both lay and ministerial, from every section of the South will be present.

The assembly will be opened at 11 o'clock a. m. in the Second Presbyterian church with a sermon by the retiring moderator, Rev. Jonathan W. Bachman, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Chattanooga, Tenn. Three sessions will be held daily, the assembly extending through the following eight days.

Fifty years ago the Civil war brought about a division of the Presbyterian church into two branches, one now known as the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the other as the Presbyterian Church in the United States. It is the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Southern church which will form a feature of the program to be observed by the general assembly this year. On the first evening Rev. Henry Alexander White, D. D., LL. D., of Columbia, S. C., will deliver an address on "The Origin of the Presbyterian Church in the United States," in which he will discuss the causes which compelled the organization of the Southern church, the discouragements under which the church began to live and the heritage of her membership from the Scotch-Irish, the Huguenots and the English. On the following morning, May 19, Rev. Theron H. Rice, D. D., of Richmond, Va., will deliver an address on "The History and Progress of the Presbyterian Church in the United States," her ministers and teachers; her missionary heroes and her triumphs, and her achievements in scholarship, education and benevolence.

The evening of the same day Rev. Egbert W. Smith, D. D., of Louisville, Ky., will speak on "The Mission of the Presbyterian Church in the United States," in which he will discuss the distinctive work of the church and the equipment needed in the way of men, money and spiritual power.

CONFEDERATE VETERANS GO TO LITTLE ROCK

Many of Our Old Warriors Will Mingle Together in Another Confederate Veterans' Reunion.

Sunday afternoon the special trains bearing the Confederate veterans to Little Rock, Ark., for their annual reunion passed through the city.

Capt. John Gee, W. G. Mitchell, J. C. Davis and Joe Beard were the members of J. B. Robinson camp who went from here, and it was with eager expectation they boarded the train to shake the hands of comrades and spend a season of happiness, recalling thrilling deeds, sad memories and funny stories of the great war.

Mr. and Mrs. John McCorquodale and Mrs. Luther Taylor, of Houston, and Mr. and Mrs. Ira Gooch, of Navasota, passed through on the special train at 5 p. m. This train was crowded with members of Dick Dowling camp of Houston, many of whom wore their Confederate uniforms and carried their Confederate flags. Many other South Texas camps were largely represented.

The reunion will last for ten days and an interesting program has been arranged. An effort will be made to secure the reunion for Houston next year.

MOTHERS DAY AT UNION HILL

Perhaps the largest crowd ever seen at Union Hill assembled Sunday evening to celebrate Mothers' Day. In addition to almost the entire population of the neighborhood, old and young, there were large delegations from Bryan and College, and a sprinkling from other communities. The women and children and a few men filled the house, while the most of the men and boys stood outside at the windows and doors, wherever they could see or hear. Notwithstanding these unfavorable conditions, aggravated by the sultry weather, good order prevailed throughout the entire two hours occupied by the program.

The usual weekly program of the Union Hill League formed the basis of the exercises, which consisted chiefly of recitations by the little tots and readings and essays by the adult members, interspersed with music; the selections and original contributions having a bearing on the central idea of the occasion—mother love. The special features were addresses by Mr. F. D. Steger, general secretary of the college Young Men's Christian Association, and County Attorney Lamar Bethea, of Bryan. The presiding genius and interlocutor was, of course, the venerable president of the league, Mr. R. R. Royall, through whose efforts chiefly that unique religio-social organization was founded and by whose untiring energy and perseverance the enthusiasm is maintained and its influence for good is widened and deepened from year to year.

Mr. Steger took a comprehensive view of mother love, including the animal instinct, citing the quail, the bear and other birds and beasts as examples. He then briefly reviewed the influence of mother love in forming the characters of the great men of history, mentioning Cornelia, the mother of the Gracchi, Queen Victoria and other mothers who won renown by devotion to their children. The address was embellished with numerous quotations of prose and poetry germane to the subject.

Mr. Bethea's address was practical, consisting largely of personal reminiscences of his own and other good mothers whom he has known. This practical method of treating the subject held the interest of the audience and made a strong impression.

The program was as follows:

1. Song No. 2.
2. Prayer, Douglass Ayres.
3. Roll call.
4. Verses from the Bible.
5. Call for Testaments.
6. Recitation, Mrs. Anna Royall.
7. Song, Susie and Josie Carson.
8. Essay, Mrs. G. Youngblood.
9. Recitation, Master Willie Ayres.
10. Recitation, Vera Ramsey.
11. Recitation, Master A. B. Carson.
12. Recitation, Master Bruce Carroll.
13. Song, by the league.
14. Recitation, Master Harvey Spiller.
15. Recitation, Master Walter Ayres.
16. Recitation, Master Lester Carroll.
17. Address by F. G. Steger, Y. M. C. A. secretary.
18. Song by the league.
19. Reading, Mrs. Julia Denman.

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20. Recitation, Marguerite Carson.
21. Song, Prof. Jim Ramsey.
22. Reading, Mrs. R. L. Spiller.
23. Song by the league.
24. Volunteer pieces by about twenty souls.
25. Song by the league.
26. Address by Lamar Bethea.
27. Dismissal by Rev. J. W. Mitchell.

A collection or free-will offering for the orphans amounted to \$3.35.

MAY BUILD MACADAM ROAD.

Robertson County to Supply Link in Trans-State Highway.

Franklin, Texas, May 15.—The commissioners' court has before it a proposition to build a macadam road from north to south through Robertson county in line from Marlin to Bryan. This is to be a link in the great trans-state macadam thoroughfare now being built in links from the Red river to the gulf. All of the counties, except Robertson, Brazos and Grimes, have

indicated their willingness to build their respective portions of the road. It will necessitate a heavy bond issue to build the road, but since it will become a link in a great trans-state macadam thoroughfare, connecting some of the largest cities in Texas, it is thought there will be little opposition to the movement. In fact, can be said that, so far as Robertson county is concerned, its part of the road is practically assured.

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